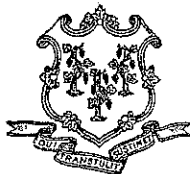


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



HOUSE DEMOCRATS OFFICE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4100
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

February 5, 2013

Senator Ayala, Representative Serra, Senator Kelly, and Representative Adinolfi:

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of SB 79 – An Act Requiring Electrical Power Generators at State-Assisted Senior Housing Developments. With the high frequency of storms causing major power outages in Connecticut in recent months, it is imperative that our population's most vulnerable citizens are kept safe during such weather events. Ensuring that state-assisted senior housing developments have backup power generation will help to heighten the safety of those buildings.

Many senior housing development facilities have emergency backup power that provides electricity to hallway and stairwell lights and elevators. This should be the most basic requirement of backup power generation.

However, we should consider expanding that requirement to housing developments that are not necessarily state-assisted, but house a large proportion of senior citizens and/or disabled residents. We have such housing developments in our districts, including some that don't have backup power. When the power goes out for an extended period of time, it is difficult for elderly and disabled residents to leave their rooms, with no hallway lighting or elevator service.

We also urge consideration of providing emergency backup power to a room or area where those in need of devices that rely on electricity to survive (e.g., a dialysis machine) can go to use their devices.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Rep. Mae Flexer – 44th District

Handwritten signature of Mae Flexer in cursive.

Rep. James Albis – 99th District

Handwritten signature of James Albis in cursive.

Rep. Matt Lesser – 100th District

Handwritten signature of Matt Lesser in cursive.